



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

June 6, 2012

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing to urge that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) permit the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, to move forward with deployment of its proposed long-term evolution (LTE) public safety broadband network, which is funded pursuant to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Specifically, I ask that NTIA rescind its freeze on network deployment funding as it applies to Charlotte ordering, taking delivery of, or installing LTE equipment, so that the City of Charlotte can proceed with this project in time for the Democratic National Convention in September.

The City of Charlotte has been a faithful steward of its BTOP funding and is ready to deploy its LTE network now. This funding suspension will put our First Responders at a substantial disadvantage in the near-term, and in very tangible ways. While the State of North Carolina has successfully implemented a statewide Voice Interoperable Network for Emergency Responders (VIPER), neither the City of Charlotte's communications infrastructure nor the available commercial networks can provide an adequate substitute for the planned BTOP-funded LTE network. In the vast majority of cases, Charlotte First Responders have access to only 3G commercial service, with very limited 4G access. These commercial networks have provided unpredictable network performance to our First Responders during normal daily operations, with performance worsening in emergencies, when congestion increases and performance is most critical. Commercial networks currently relied on do not recognize public safety traffic as priority traffic and are not sufficiently nimble to assign priority among public safety officials as appropriate. In contrast, the Charlotte LTE network will permit centralized coordination of network priorities and allow tailoring of radio and system resources to allow law enforcement to more effectively adjust to specific incidents and evolving circumstances in near real-time.



Further delays will also cost us real money at a time we cannot afford to waste it. It would take approximately \$2 million in additional costs when Charlotte, FirstNet or the State of North Carolina remobilized the project, plus \$1 million annually during each year of delayed deployment in ongoing, unavoidable system-related costs.

In summary, daily experience has demonstrated that currently available commercial broadband service is not sufficient to serve the needs of our First Responders. Build-out of an LTE public safety broadband network on a timely basis is critical to preparations for the Democratic National Convention which, as I am sure you know, has been designated a National Special Security Event by the Department of Homeland Security.

Therefore, I urge you to rescind your request that the City of Charlotte "pause" its LTE build-out, and permit it to move forward with its BTOP-funded LTE broadband network without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Beverly Eaves Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beverly" being more prominent and the last name "Perdue" following in a similar style.

Beverly Eaves Perdue

c: FCC Commissioners